

# Fire Pension Board Meeting

## March 14, 2023

### **PRESENT:**

Justin Hale  
Fire Chief Bobby Zimmerman  
Drew Rubel  
Sam Sauder

### **ABSENT:**

Jeff Becker

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

### **NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS**

Retiree Randy Hurd has resigned from the board. Soon-to-be retired Lt. Justin Hale is taking Hurd's place in the retiree position. Lt. Mike Kruse has resigned from the board. New board members, appointed through acclimation, are firefighters Drew Rubel and Sam Sauder.

Motion to appoint Drew Rubel and Sam Sauder to the Fire Pension Board through acclimation:  
Motion made by Chief Bobby Zimmerman, seconded by Hale. All vote aye 4-0.

Board positions were discussed. Hale will serve as president, Rubel will serve as secretary and Jeff Becker remains treasurer. Meeting frequency is planned to be once a quarter.

Three new East Peoria firefighters have been hired, Payton Mojica in September 2022, and Eli Wieland and Hannah Thompson in November 2022.

Motion to receive and file the new member applications of Payton Mojica, Eli Wieland, and Hannah Thompson to the pension fund:  
Motion made by Hale, seconded by Sauder. All vote aye 4-0.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Hale reported that the Fire Pension Board has \$950,840.36 in the checking account. Disbursements are around \$192,000 and leaving about four months of funds. Becker will be consulted on whether to make a deposit in the checking account. Upcoming retirements are Hale and Lt. April Rieker.

The board has funds in a Money Market Account in the amount of \$1,059,904.58.

The consolidated pension fund is down approximately a billion dollars since it began, due to stock market actions.

### **DISABILITY CASE UPDATE**

The Chris Dunne disability hearing will occur April 11. Hale distributed flash drives to the members containing documents for their review and directed them to form their own opinion. Dunne's attorney will present his case during the hearing and the board members can ask questions. The City of East Peoria will need to contact Fire Pension Board Attorney Jim Dobrolvoney and request to intervene if it chooses to do so. This can occur at any time. Dobrolvoney will be the hearing officer. Hale placed a phone call to Dobrolvoney so the board could ask him questions. Chief Zimmerman and asked if Dobrolvoney can serve as both the hearing officer and the board's attorney. Dobrolvoney said he can be both the hearing officer and answer questions from the board but cannot tell them how to vote. He will be legal counsel to the board in an executive session. Dobrolvoney said the board does not need to go into executive session if members feel one is not needed.

Hale referenced the Chuck Melton disability hearing, telling the new members that during the following pension board meeting, when the disability decision was filed, East Peoria Mayor John Kahl read a prepared statement about the city intervening. The city has not yet intervened in the Dunne case. Hale asked if there is a deadline for the city to intervene. Dobrolvoney said the city can file it, and if that happens he advised the board to continue the disability

case to see what information the city wants to produce. If the city intervenes it will be important to make sure all parties have all the same documents. Chief Zimmerman left the meeting for a few moments to see if the mayor would like to step in and ask any questions about intervening.

Mayor John Kahl joined the meeting. Dobrolvoney went through the intervention process, stating a letter needs to be sent to the East Peoria Fire Pension Board through the city attorney's office stating the city wants to intervene. The board will need to consider that request at a future meeting.

If the city chooses to intervene, the hearing will likely be pushed back 30 days. In the meantime, the board members need to go over the documents on the flash drives several times to make sure they understand the information.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

There was no public participation.

**AJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting:

Motion made by Zimmerman, seconded by Sauder. All vote aye 4-0.

*Next meeting: Date to be announced.*

*Submitted by Jill Peterson*